

DATE OF MEETING JANUARY 20, 2021

AUTHORED BY LAARA CLARKSON, MANAGER, RECREATION SERVICES,
PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE

SUBJECT COMMUNITY PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT GRANT – NANAIMO
SCIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY SOCIETY (NS3)

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To obtain Council approval of a request for a Community Program Development Grant. |

Recommendation

That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council approve the request from the Nanaimo Science and Sustainability Society (NS3) for a Community Program Development Grant in the amount of \$3,500 to assist in funding the Science in the Park program.

BACKGROUND

The intent of the Community Program Development Grant is to assist community groups to develop new or expanded programs that provide increased opportunities for residents to participate and connect with community, and to enhance residents' exposure to a variety of experiences.

The grant is intended as seed funding to help get new programs off the ground or to expand existing programs with the hope that the programs become self-sustaining. It is not intended to be long-term operational funding or funding for capital expenditures. A total budget of \$15,000 is available through this fund with applications accepted by November 1 for Spring/Summer programs and May 1 for fall/winter programs, or as funds remain available. |

DISCUSSION

A total of two Community Program Development Grant applications were received prior to the acceptance deadline of 2020-NOV-01 for the intake period for 2021 spring/summer programs. Staff reviewed the two applications based on program eligibility and assessment criteria.

Staff reviewed the application submitted by Nanaimo Science and Sustainability Society (NS3) with a request of \$3,500 to assist in funding the Science in the Park program to be held through the weeks of July and August (Attachment A).

Staff determined that this application successfully met all of the grant criteria (Attachment B). |

OPTIONS

1. That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council approve the request from the Nanaimo Science and Sustainability Society (NS3) for a Community Program Development Grant in the amount of \$3,500 to assist in funding the Science in the Park program.
 - The advantages of this option: Meets the goal of helping community groups with an expanded program to increase opportunities for residents to participate and connect in the community.
 - The disadvantages of this option: None identified.
 - Financial Implications: If approved, the remaining balance of \$11,500 would remain available for future 2021 requests for Community Program Development Grant funding.
2. That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council deny the Community Program Development Grant received from the Nanaimo Science and Sustainability Society.
 - The advantages of this option: The grant funds would remain available for future grant applications.
 - The disadvantages of this option: The application from a community group that meets all criteria would not be approved.
 - Financial Implications: The full balance of \$15,000 would remain available for future requests from the Community Program Development Grant fund.

SUMMARY POINTS

- Funding of \$15,000 is allocated yearly for Community Program Development Grants.
- The application from the Nanaimo Science and Sustainability Society (NS3) to assist funding for expanding the Science in the Park program successfully meets the grant criteria.
- If approved, a balance of \$11,500 would remain in the 2021 Community Program Development Grant fund.

ATTACHMENTS:

ATTACHMENT A: Application for the Community Program Development Grant from Nanaimo Science and Sustainability Society (NS3).

ATTACHMENT B: Evaluation Form for the Community Program Development Grant. |

Submitted by:

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Concurrence by:

Lynn Wark
Director, Recreation and Culture